GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1711
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRADE
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal firearms trade is flourishing in the capital and also in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether such illegal firearms are mostly used in crimes and the various State Governments have failed to check such rising trend; and

(d) if so, the strategies adopted by the Government to bring changes in the Arms Act to ban manufacture and use of illegal arms?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) and (b): There is no specific information to suggest that illegal firearms trade is flourishing either in the capital or in other parts of the country.

(c) and (d): Some of such illegal arms are used in criminal activities. There is, however, no input to suggest that State Governments have failed to check them. Under the directions of the Government of India, the States and UTs conduct frequent drives to unearth unlicensed/illegal arms. Proper inspection of the licensed dealers and manufacturers of arms is being regularly conducted by the States and UTs to check any diversion. The existing provisions in the Arms Act are potent enough to deal with such offences and bring the offenders to book as the punishment prescribed is stringent ranging from three years to life imprisonment with fine.